Historic Property Losses After Hurricane Katrina:

The Challenges of Section 106 Mitigation

- *The Initial Response* -

- Once the realities of devastation became clear, cultural resource specialists were faced with unprecedented challenges.

- The scale has required an expedited evaluation process, taking care to meet Section 106 requirements.

Loss of Integrity

- *Eligibility Complications* -

- Severely damaged properties and neighborhoods with a loss of essential integrity for NR eligibility.
- Lack of prior documentation or inventory data.
- Loss of oral history data when local informants left the area.

- *Conventional Mitigation* -

- HABS/HAER Documentation
- Oral Histories
- National Register Nominations, Expansion of Existing Districts
- Exhibits & Displays
- Walking Tours/Publications
- Commemorative Signs & Kiosks

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- *Alternative Mitigation* -

- Traditional Cultural Property Documentation
- Salvage and Deconstruction
- Preservation of Select Properties
- Enhanced Educational Products

Traditional Cultural Properties

- Places significant to native peoples
- Physical sites/locations of significant events or important patterns of activity (civil rights, music movements)
- Buildings or gathering spaces where long standing community events and rituals are institutionalized and perpetuated

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1208
No Bulldozing!
No Bulldozing!

Mercy Seat
BAPTIST CHURCH
SUN SCHOOL
SUN WORSHIP
BIBLE STUDY
COMMUNION
TV SERVICE

Salvage & Deconstruction

Potential Benefits

- Salvage undertaken by non-profit organizations, prior to federally funded removal of properties.
- Deconstruct select properties for later reconstruction or partial reconstruction.
- Salvaged materials and features made available for regional historic property rehabilitation.
- Meet USACE environmental goals that encourage sustainability and salvage.
- Lend some control to indiscriminate loss and pirating of the region’s architectural heritage.

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Other Options

- Retain/preserve highly significant “anchor” properties
- Preserve representative examples (residential, commercial, etc.)
- Preserve community/institutional properties
- Emphasize educational tools such as multi-media products, websites, etc.